

**UNITED STATE DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF GEORGIA
ATLANTA GEORGIA**

JERRY BLASINGAME,

Plaintiff,

v.

OFFICER J. GRUBBS, #6416,
and CITY OF ATLANTA/
ATLANTA POLICE DEPARTMENT

Defendants.

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. Civil Action No. 1:19-cv-2047-SCJ
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. Conference **is** requested
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JOINT PROPOSED PRETRIAL ORDER

The Parties submit the following as their joint proposed pretrial order:

1. There are no motions or other matters pending for consideration by the court.

However, the Parties reserve the right to file motions in limine in accordance with this Court's Standing Order.

2. All discovery has been completed, unless otherwise noted, and the court will not consider any further motions to compel discovery. (Refer to LR 37.1B). Provided there is no resulting delay in readiness for trial, the parties shall, however, be permitted to take the depositions of any persons for the preservation of evidence and for use at trial.
3. Unless otherwise noted, the names of the parties as shown in the caption to this Order and the capacity in which they appear are correct and complete, and there is no question by any party as to the misjoinder or non-joinder of any parties.

- a. On November 1, 2021, the Probate Court of Walker County, Georgia issued Letters of Guardianship and Conservatorship of Jerry Blasingame, appointing Keith W. Edwards as Guardian and Conservator. Therefore, the caption should state: “The Estate of Jerry Blasingame, an incapacitated person by and through Keith Edwards, as appointed Guardian and Conservator for Jerry Blasingame.”**
- 4. Unless otherwise noted, there is no question as to the jurisdiction of the court; jurisdiction is based upon the following code sections.**
 - a. Municipal Liability:**
 - i. 28 U.S.C. § 1331 – Federal question**
 - ii. 28 U.S.C. § 1343 – Civil rights and elective law**
 - iii. 42. U.S.C. § 1983 – Civil rights**
 - b. Excessive Force and Due Process:**
 - i. 28 U.S.C. § 1331 – Federal question**
 - ii. 28 U.S.C. § 1343 – Civil rights and elective law**
 - c. Assault and Battery:**
 - i. 28 U.S.C. § 1367 – Supplemental jurisdiction**
- 5. The following individually-named attorneys are hereby designated as lead counsel for the parties:**
 - a. Plaintiff: Ven R. Johnson**
 - b. Defendant Grubbs: Staci J. Miller**
 - c. Defendant City of Atlanta / Atlanta Police Department: Staci J. Miller**
- 6. Normally, the plaintiff is entitled to open and close arguments to the jury. (Refer to LR39.3(B)(2)(b)). State below the reasons, if any, why the plaintiff should not be permitted to open arguments to the jury.**
 - a. Plaintiff: None.**

b. Defendant: None.

7. The captioned case shall be tried to a jury.
8. State whether the parties request that the trial to a jury be bifurcated, i.e. that the same jury consider separately issues such as liability and damages. State briefly the reasons why trial should or should not be bifurcated.

a. The trial should not be bifurcated. Plaintiffs' claims against both Defendants are related and arise from same set of operable facts.

9. Attached hereto as Attachment "A" and made a part of this order by reference are the questions which the parties request that the court propound to the jurors concerning their legal qualifications to serve.

a. See Attachment A.

10. Attached hereto as Attachment "B-1" are the general questions which plaintiff wishes to be propounded to the jurors on voir dire examination.

Attached hereto as Attachment "B-2" are the general questions which defendants wish to be propounded to the jurors on voir dire examination.

Attached hereto as Attachment "B-3", "B-4", etc. are the general questions which the remaining parties, if any, wish to be propounded to the jurors on voir dire examination.

The court, shall question the prospective jurors as to their address and occupation and as to the occupation of a spouse, if any. Counsel may be permitted to ask follow-up questions on these matters. It shall not, therefore, be necessary for counsel to submit questions regarding these matters. The determination of whether the judge or counsel will propound general voir dire questions is a matter of courtroom policy which shall be established by each judge.

a. See Attachments B-1, B-2.

11. State any objections to plaintiff's voir dire questions:

a. The Defendants object to each and every proposed voir dire topic

where there are no specific questions outlined. The Defendants also object to the “non-exhaustive” and vague nature of the proposed topics. The Defendants reserve further objections until such time that appropriate voir dire questions are submitted.

Plaintiff Response: It appears that Defense did not have an opportunity to review the final version of Plaintiff’s Voir Dire, Plaintiff reserves right to respond to objections at a later down if and when necessary.

State any objections to defendant’s voir dire questions:

a. None.

State any objections to the voir dire questions of the other parties, if any:

a. N/A.

12. All civil cases to be tried wholly or in part by jury shall be tried before a jury consisting of not less than six (6) members, unless the parties stipulate otherwise. The parties must state in the space provided below the basis for any requests for additional strikes. Unless otherwise directed herein, each side as a group will be allowed the number of peremptory challenges as provided by 28 U.S.C. § 1870. See Fed.R.Civ.P. 47(b).

a. Defendants’ Basis for Requesting Additional Strikes: The Defendants respectfully request three (3) strikes per Defendant pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 47(b) and 28 U.S.C. § 1870.

13. State whether there is any pending related litigation. Describe briefly, including state and civil action number.

a. Plaintiff also filed a lawsuit in Georgia State Court related to this incident alleging state claims of assault and battery and respondeat superior in July 2020. Civil Action No. 20EV003777. The operative amended complaint in this Federal action includes identical claims of assault and battery and respondeat superior. This Court dismissed the respondeat superior claim. Plaintiff does not object to the dismissal of the state lawsuit without prejudice.

14. Attached hereto as Attachment “C” is plaintiff’s outline of the case which includes a succinct factual summary of plaintiff’s cause of action and which shall be neither argumentative nor recite evidence. All relevant rules, regulations, statutes, ordinances, and illustrative case law creating a specific legal duty relied upon by plaintiff shall be listed under a separate heading. In negligence cases, each and every act of negligence relied upon shall be separately listed. For each item of damage claimed, plaintiff shall separately provide the following information: (a) a brief description of the item claimed, for example, pain and suffering; (b) the dollar amount claimed; and (c) a citation to the law, rule, regulation, or any decision authorizing a recovery for that particular item of damage. Items of damage not identified in this manner shall not be recoverable.

a. See Attachment C

15. Attached hereto as Attachment “D” is the defendant’s outline of the case which includes a succinct factual summary of all general, special, and affirmative defenses relied (Rev. 03/01/11) APP.B - 24 upon and which shall be neither argumentative nor recite evidence. All relevant rules, regulations, statutes, ordinances, and illustrative case law relied upon as creating a defense shall be listed under a separate heading. For any counterclaim, the defendant shall separately provide the following information for each item of damage claimed: (a) a brief description of the item claimed; (b) the dollar amount claimed; and (c) a citation to the law, rule, regulation, or any decision authorizing a recovery for that particular item of damage. Items of damage not identified in this manner shall not be recoverable.

a. See Attachment D

16. Attached hereto as Attachment “E” are the facts stipulated by the parties. No further evidence will be required as to the facts contained in the stipulation and the stipulation may be read into evidence at the beginning of the trial or at such other time as is appropriate in the trial of the case. It is the duty of counsel to cooperate fully with each other to identify all undisputed facts. A refusal to do so may result in the imposition of sanctions upon the noncooperating counsel.

a. See Attachment E

17. The legal issues to be tried are as follows:

- a. **Whether Defendant Grubbs violated Jerry Blasingame's right to be free from excessive and unreasonable force under the Fourth Amendment to the United States Constitution and 42 U.S.C. § 1983.**
 - b. **Whether Defendant Grubbs violated Jerry Blasingame's right to be free from arbitrary and conscience-shocking conduct under the Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution and 42 U.S.C. § 1983.**
 - c. **Whether Defendant Grubbs is entitled to qualified immunity.**
 - d. **Whether Defendant Grubbs committed an assault and battery on Jerry Blasingame.**
 - e. **Whether Defendant Grubbs is entitled to official immunity.**
 - f. **Whether Defendants City of Atlanta and Atlanta Police Department had an unlawful policy, practice, or custom that was the moving force behind the constitutional violations suffered by Jerry Blasingame.**
 - g. **Whether Defendants are statutorily required to pay all of Jerry Blasingame's medical expenses past and present pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 45-5-2.**
18. Attached hereto as Attachment "F-1" for the plaintiff, Attachment "F-2" for the defendant, and Attachment "F-3", etc. for all other parties is a list of all the witnesses and their addresses for each party. The list must designate the witnesses whom the party will have present at trial and those witnesses whom the party may have present at trial. Expert (any witness who might express an opinion under Rule 702), impeachment and rebuttal witnesses whose use as a witness can be reasonably anticipated must be included. Each party shall also attach to the list a reasonable specific summary of the expected testimony of each expert witness. All of the other parties may rely upon a representation by a designated party that a witness will be present unless notice to the contrary is given ten (10) days prior to trial to allow the other party(s) to subpoena the witness or to obtain the witness' testimony by other6 (Rev. 03/01/11) APP.B - 25 means. Witnesses who are not included on the witness list (including expert, impeachment and rebuttal witnesses whose use should have been

reasonably anticipated) will not be permitted to testify, unless expressly authorized by court order based upon a showing that the failure to comply was justified.

a. See Attachments F-1, F-2.

19. Attached hereto as Attachment “G-1” for the plaintiff, “G-2” for the defendant, and “G-3”, etc. for all other parties are the typed lists of all documentary and physical evidence that will be tendered at trial. Learned treatises which are expected to be used at trial shall not be admitted as exhibits. Counsel are required, however, to identify all such treatises under a separate heading on the party’s exhibit list. Each party’s exhibits shall be numbered serially, beginning with 1, and without the inclusion of any alphabetical or numerical subparts. Adequate space must be left on the left margin of each party’s exhibit list for court stamping purposes. A courtesy copy of each party’s list must be submitted for use by the judge. Prior to trial, counsel shall mark the exhibits as numbered on the attached lists by affixing numbered yellow stickers to plaintiff’s exhibits, numbered blue stickers to defendant’s exhibits, and numbered white stickers to joint exhibits. When there are multiple plaintiffs or defendants, the surname of the particular plaintiff or defendant shall be shown above the number on the stickers for that party’s exhibits. Specific objections to another party’s exhibits must be typed on a separate page and must be attached to the exhibit list of the party against whom the objections are raised. Objections as to authenticity, privilege, competency, and, to the extent possible, relevancy of the exhibits shall be included. Any listed document to which an objection is not raised shall be deemed to have been stipulated as to authenticity by the parties and shall be admitted at trial without further proof of authenticity. Unless otherwise noted, copies rather than originals of documentary evidence may be used at trial. Documentary or physical exhibits may not be submitted by counsel after filing of the pretrial order, except upon consent of all the parties or permission of the court. Exhibits so admitted must be numbered, inspected by counsel, and marked with stickers prior to trial. Counsel shall familiarize themselves with all exhibits (and the numbering thereof) prior to trial. Counsel will not be afforded time during trial to examine exhibits that are or should have been listed.

a. See Attachments G-1, G-2.

20. The following designated portions of the testimony of the persons listed below

may be introduced by deposition:

By Plaintiff:

- a. Jerry Blasingame
- b. Jon Grubbs
- c. Keith Shelley
- d. Theresa Cuevas
- e. La'Wanda Giles
- f. Michael Banja
- g. Julio Reyes Jr.
- h. Patrick Fite
- i. Herman Taylor
- j. Steven McCallum

By Defendants: Defendants object to the testimony of Jerry Blasingame and Jon Grubbs being introduced by deposition as both are parties to the present action. The Defendants also object to the introduction of testimony through deposition of any witness that is not unavailable to testify at trial.

Any objections to the depositions of the foregoing persons or to any questions or answers in the depositions shall be filed in writing no later than the day the case is first scheduled for trial. Objections not perfected in this manner will be deemed waived or abandoned. All depositions shall be reviewed by counsel and all extraneous and unnecessary matter, including non-essential colloquy of counsel, shall be deleted. Depositions, whether preserved by stenographic means or videotape, shall not go out with the jury.

21. Attached hereto as Attachments "H-1" for the plaintiff, "H-2" for the defendant, and "H-3", etc. for other parties, are any trial briefs which counsel may wish to file containing citations to legal authority concerning evidentiary questions and any other legal issues which counsel anticipate will arise during the trial of the case. Limitations, if any, regarding the format and length of trial briefs is a matter of individual practice which shall be established by each judge.

No briefs are attached. The parties request permission to file trial briefs, if any, with the Court ten (10) days prior to the start of trial, or such other time fixed by the Court.

22. In the event this is a case designated for trial to the court with a jury, requests for charge must be submitted no later than 9:30 a.m. on the date on which the case is calendared (or specially set) for trial. Requests which are not timely filed and which are not otherwise in compliance with LR 51.1, will not be considered. In addition, each party should attach to the requests to charge a short (not more than one (1) page) statement of that party's contentions, covering both claims and defenses, which the court may use in its charge to the jury. Counsel are directed to refer to the latest edition of the Eleventh Circuit District Judges Association's Pattern Jury Instructions and Devitt and Blackmar's Federal Jury Practice and Instructions in preparing the requests to charge. For those issues not covered by the Pattern (Rev. 03/01/11) APP.B - 27 Instructions or Devitt and Blackmar, counsel are directed to extract the applicable legal principle (with minimum verbiage) from each cited authority.
23. If counsel desire for the case to be submitted to the jury in a manner other than upon a general verdict, the form of submission agreed to by all counsel shall be shown in Attachment "I" to this Pretrial Order. If counsel cannot agree on a special form of submission, parties will propose their separate forms for the consideration of the court.

a. See Attachment I, Defendants' Proposed Special Verdict Form.

24. Unless otherwise authorized by the court, arguments in all jury cases shall be limited to one-half hour for each side. Should any party desire any additional time for argument, the request should be noted (and explained) herein.

a. Pla's Request for Additional Time to Argue: 2 hours for Plaintiff due to the large number of witnesses and length of trial.

b. Defs' Request for Additional Time to Argue (if applicable): Defendants do not anticipate asking for extra time until/unless additional time is requested by Plaintiff.

25. If the case is designated for trial to the court without a jury, counsel are directed to submit proposed finding of fact and conclusions of law not later than the opening of trial.
26. Pursuant to LR 16.3, lead counsel and persons possessing settlement authority to bind the parties met in person on February 4, 2022, to discuss in good faith the possibility of settlement of this case, at a mediation with Magistrate Judge

Bly. Through Judge Bly, the court has discussed settlement of this case with counsel. It appears at this time that there is: No possibility of settlement.

27. Unless otherwise noted, the court will not consider this case for a special setting, and it will be scheduled by the clerk in accordance with the normal practice of the court.

28. The plaintiff estimates that it will require **10** days to present its evidence. The defendants estimate(s) that it will require 3 - 4 days to present its evidence. The other parties estimate that it will require _____ days to present their evidence. It is estimated that the total trial time is 14 days.

29.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the above constitutes the pretrial order for the above captioned case, (____) submitted by stipulation of the parties or (____) approved by the court after conference with the parties.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the foregoing, including the attachments thereto, constitutes the pretrial order in the above case and that it supersedes the pleadings which are hereby amended to conform hereto and that this pretrial order shall not be amended except by Order of the court to prevent manifest injustice. Any attempt to reserve a right to amend or add to any part of the pretrial order after the pretrial order has been filed shall be invalid and of no effect and shall not be binding upon any party or the court, unless specifically authorized in writing by the court.

IT IS SO ORDERED this _____ day of _____, 2022.

UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

Each of the undersigned counsel for the parties hereby consents to entry of the foregoing pretrial order, which has been prepared in accordance with the form pretrial order adopted by this court.

Ven. R. Johnson
VEN R. JOHNSON
Attorney
Michigan Bar No. 39219
313-324-8300
vrjohnson@venjohnsonlaw.com

JOHNSON LAW, PLLC
535 Griswold Street
Suite 2600
Detroit, MI 48226
T- 313-324-8300
F- 313-324-8301

DARREN TOBIN
Attorney
404-587-8423
darren@tobininjurylaw.com

TOBIN INJURY LAW
49B Lenox Point NE
Atlanta GA 30324
T - 404-587-8423

Counsel for Plaintiffs

Staci J. Miller (w/ permission)
STACI J. MILLER
Attorney
Georgia Bar No. 601594
Phone: 404-546-4083
Email: sjmiller@atlantaga.gov

**CITY OF ATLANTA LAW
DEPARTMENT**
55 Trinity Avenue, Suite 5000
Atlanta, Georgia 30303
Office: 404-546-4100
Fax: 404-225-5657

Counsel for Defendants